Friday, May 23d 1856,

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment,

Present - James Armitage, Esq., President, and all the members, except -

Mr. Hilbert presented to petition of Ann Hoffman and others, asking the city to purchase a lot of ground, situated in the Northwestern section of the city, for a public square, which was read and referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Highways.

Mr. Shoemaker presented the following preamble and resolutions, which was read and laid on the table.

Whereas, it has been intimated that it is the intention of the Board of Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, to increase freight on Cumberland coal, and

Whereas, it is apprehended that if such a course of policy is pursued, the result will be very deleterious to the interest of the city of Baltimore, in her corporate capacity, as well as in that of Stock holders, in said road, Therefore be it

Resolved by both branches of the City Council of Baltimore, That a Joint Special Committee, consisting of two members from each Branch, shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to wait on the Directors, on the part of the city, in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and ascertain what amount of Cumberland coal has been transported over the road during the last twelve months, ending 1st May inst, the actual cost of such transportation and the amount of freights on coal received during that time, and whether in their opinion, an increase of freight as contemplated would or not be detrimental to the interests of the city.

And be it further resolved, That this committee shall also ascertain the amount of disbursement made in the city by the coal trade and enquire into the probable effect upon the City, (both as a Stockholder and in her corporate capacity) of any course of policy on the part of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co., having a tendency to conflict with the interests, or retard the growth of this trade.

And be it further resolved, that the said Joint Special Committee shall collect any and all other information and facts in relation to the bituminous coal trade of the City of Baltimore and report the

same to this council at their earliest convenience.

The President laid before the Branch the following communication from the Mayor, which was read and laid on the table:

Mayors Office
Baltimore, May, 23d 1856.

To the Honorable President
and Members of the Second Branch City Council
Gentlemen;

I respectfully beg leave to inform you that I have approved the following bills, originating in your branch, namely;

Revised Ordinance No. 11 - An ordinance to provide for the appointment of Assessors, and of an Appeal Tax Court,

Revised Ordinance No. 13 - An ordinance establishing a system of grading, repairing and repairing the streets, lanes and alleys of the City of Baltimore,

Revised Ordinance No. 12 - An Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a Secretary to the Mayorality,

An Ordinance to change the Port Warden's line between Broadway and Ann streets.

Resolution relative to the erection of a shed at the Lexington Fish Market,

Resolution relative to the erection of a fire plug in front of the Patapsco engine house,

Respectfully,
Samuel Hinks, Mayor.

The President laid before the Branch the following communication from the Board of Health, which was read and referred to the Joint Special Committee on the Revised Ordinances.

Health Office,
Baltimore, May, 23d, 1856,

To the Hon, the members of the Second Branch City Council
Gentlemen;

The Board of Health, desiring of abating the many nuisances arising from unpaved streets and alleys, would most respectfully urges upon your Hon Bodies the passage of the ordinance (in some form or other) empowering them, or some one else, to condemn an enforce the paving of the same, as in their opinion that is the only remedy for the existing evil.

Complaints are daily being made to them, which they